

Amendments to the Abstract

Please substitute the paragraph presented on the next page for the abstract now appearing in the currently filed specification:

{ W:\20794\0204434us0\00798147.DOC 1207940204434us0\00798147.DOC }
1207940204434us0\00798147.DOC

Abstract

A method for controlling a cooking process on a cooktop that includes a cooktop plate, at least one cooking zone heatable by a heating device disposed beneath the cooktop plate, and a first and a second heat sensor unit disposed beneath the cooktop plate. The method includes measuring, by the first heat sensor unit, a first heat flow emanating downward substantially from the cooktop plate in an area of a first cooking zone of the at least one cooking zone. A second heat flow emanating downward, in the area of the first cooking zone, downward substantially from the cooktop plate and a cooking utensil disposed thereon is measured by the second heat sensor. An electrical control system calculates a comparison value from respective output signals of the first and second heat sensor units. The electrical control system compares the calculated comparison value with at least one predetermined and stored reference value. The electrical control system controls a heat output of the heating device as a function of the comparison